

REMARKS

Summary of the Office Action-

Claims 1 and 7-8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,931,726 to *Kasukabe et al.*

Claims 1 and 5 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over JP 06-087874 in view of *Kasukabe et al.*

Claims 4 and 6 are allowed.

Summary of the Response to the Office Action

Applicants have canceled claims 1, 5, 7, and 8. Claims 2 and 3 were previously canceled. Accordingly, claims 4 and 6 are pending for further consideration.

All Claims Recite Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants have canceled claims 1, 5, 7, and 8 solely in order to expedite the prosecution of this application. Claims 2 and 3 were previously canceled. As claims 4 and 6 stand allowed, the application is in clear condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and the timely allowance of all pending claims. Should the Examiner feel that there are any issues outstanding after consideration of this response, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative to expedite prosecution.

If there are any other fees due in connection with the filing of this response, please charge the fees to our Deposit Account No. 50-0310. If a fee is required for an extension of time under

37 C.F.R. § 1.136 not accounted for above, such an extension is requested, and the fee should also be charged to our Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,
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